

## **Columbus Discipleship Network**

### **Principles for Persevering in the Midst of Discouragement**

1. **Reprioritize Prayer** – find a way to refresh your prayer life so that God can use it to sustain you in a greater way moving forward (prayer journal, change format, etc.)
  - *“Therefore, let us approach the throne of grace with boldness...”* - Hebrews 4:16
2. **Fix & Refix Your Eyes on Jesus** – there are daily temptations to look at the wind and the waves and the people around you, ask for God’s strength to resist and refocus
  - *“Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith...”* - Hebrews 12:2
3. **Work With Those Who Want to be Discipled** – we will inevitably cross paths with many people who need to be discipled, but lack the desire to be discipled
  - *“What you have heard from me...commit to faithful men...”* - 2 Timothy 2:2
4. **Know There Will be Different Seasons** – seasons filled with different relationships, different needs, different lengths of time, along with our own changing circumstances
  - *“There is an occasion for everything and a time for every activity...”* - Ecclesiastes 3:1
5. **Remember You Are Part of a Body of Christ** – receive encouragement and strength in living out the Great Commission with other believers from your local church
  - *“Now you are the body of Christ, and individual members of it.”* - 1 Corinthians 12:27
6. **Praise God for Multiplication** – remember we are not anything, God brings the growth, not multiplying does not equal failure, we learn from every discipleship relationship
  - *“So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.”* - 1 Corinthians 3:7
7. **Be Refreshed Through Other Relationships** – allow the Lord to use your spouse along with Paul’s and Timothy’s in your life to encourage you and to speak the truth in love
  - *“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up...”* - 1 Thessalonians 5:11
8. **Know There Will be Some Who Walk Away** – our command has been issued during a spiritual battle, so be at peace knowing this will happen to every disciple maker
  - *“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood...”* - Ephesians 6:12
9. **Remain Faithful Regardless of Others Around You** – not everyone will share the same conviction for disciple making, so ask the Lord for His grace in remaining steadfast
  - *“He will not fear bad news; his heart is confident, trusting in the Lord.”* - Psalm 112:7
10. **Return to Jesus’ Final Words Often** – the Great Commission reminds us that our salvation comes with the commands to make disciples and to remember He is with us
  - *“Go...make disciples...baptizing...teaching them to obey...remember...”* - Mt. 28:18-20